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Honors College

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ARETÉ



THE SPIRIT OF ENGAGED EXCELLENCE – A PUBLICATION OF THE WKU HONORS COLLEGE

APR. 2010
VOL.5 ISSUE 5



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BIG RED TRIVIA BOWL SAW TEAMS LIKE KENYA DIG IT? COMPETING FOR TOP PRIZE. (PHOTO BY ANGELIKA MASERO) STORY PAGE 3

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An All-Night Adventure for a Good Cause

BETHANY RIGGS

Areté staff writer

Twelve girls dressed like Pocahontas, a John Smith look-alike, and a man costumed as Meeko the raccoon crowded outside the Preston Center on Friday night, March 19. Members of the Honors Club's Up 'Til Dawn team really took their theme, *Pocahontas*, to heart as they waited for the Disney-themed St. Jude's finale event to begin.

In order to attend the finale, each team member wrote 25 letters in October to friends and family, asking them to donate money to St. Jude's Research Hospital. The team also hosted a talent show to further raise money for the cause.

At the event, which lasted from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., teams could play volleyball, basketball, or laser tag, or watch the NCAA tournament games. The Up 'Til Dawn executive board supplied coloring books and crayons, presented various

speakers, and provided food.

"My favorite thing about the night was sitting down and coloring with all my friends," Bardstown sophomore Samantha Culver said. "It was so much fun."

The Honors Club Up 'Til Dawn team members had a great time and they are looking forward to participating again next year.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Honors Club Up 'Til Dawn team gears up for the all night Up 'Til Dawn event.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Honors sophomore Erin O'Flaherty, junior Nikki Deese, and freshman Kate Masterson apply make-up for Up 'Til Dawn.

An Evening of Chamber Opera

CRISTEN FRIDDELL

Areté staff writer

Honors students received a price reduction on theater tickets to encourage them to support their peers on the stage, and to entice them to explore different aspects of culture. The WKU Department of Theatre and Dance's "An Evening of Chamber Opera" offered audiences a chance to view two operas for the price of one. The two operas featured were *A Game of Chance*, by Seymour Barab, and *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, by Douglas Moore. The

performances ran from Thursday, Feb. 25, through the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 28, with a grand total of four shows. General admission was \$10 per ticket. Honors students paid \$3 for their seats. The Honors College bought 25 tickets at a reduced price for the opening night of the show, and then further lowered the price for the benefit of Honors students.

"It's nice that the Honors College was willing to help out money-wise," Honors junior Luke Akridge said. "They make it that much easier for a college student like myself to afford seeing the events."

Eight Honors students performed in the show: Blake Cox, Kate Douglas, Jessalyn Gerbholz, Hannah Hall, Ellen Murrey, Daniel Price, Kelsey Paschetto, and Jameson Price.

"It was nice to see your friends perform," Honors sophomore Caitlin Reyes said. "I thought everybody did a great job. It seemed like a professional performance."

Trivia Bowl: Our brains for their education

ELIZABETH BEILMAN

Areté staff writer

What two bones run from the elbow down to the wrist? How many points was a touchdown worth in 1911? What animal is the only mammal that cannot jump?

These questions are just a few of the many that filled the Mass Media and Technology Hall the morning of Saturday, Mar. 20 when the Honors College hosted Big Red's Trivia Bowl 2010.

The \$5 registration fee helped raise money for the study-abroad trip to Ghana aimed toward helping supply schools there.

With a total of 13 teams, each holding four to six players, the event lasted from 10 a.m. to well past 2 p.m.

The winning team, "Rhymes with Orange," who played against "PoliSci," received a trophy and free passes to Otte Golf Center. The team voted most

spirited, "Team Areté," won a large bowl of candy.

The competition consisted of single elimination matches, each of which had 60 questions and 30-minute halves. The moderator asked a question followed by a 20-second period where each team discussed their answer and wrote it on a dry-erase



PHOTO BY ANGELIKA MASERO

Honors seniors Dave Vickery, Kevin Smiley, UK student Mike Patton, and Honors senior Jacob Turner discuss a question on the team Kenya Dig It?

board. One point was awarded for each correct answer. Questions were put into categories including pop culture, history, English, science, math, geography, and sports.

The members of "Rhymes with Orange" (named for its irony) were Jason Dooley, a graduate student; Erica Ashley, a freshman; and Darren Tinker and Morgan Webb, students from Edmonson County High School.

According to Dooley, a former quick recall coach for Logan County High School, the mismatched team didn't prepare for the trivia bowl because they all had plenty of past experience.

"We all did quick recall in high school," said Dooley, who formed his team by posting an advertisement on Facebook.

Whether or not the teams knew the answers to the questions (they are radius and ulna, five, and the elephant), the effort was well worth the outcome.

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How many Honors hours do I need?
Is it time to start my CEET?
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Scavenger Hunt Raises Money for Formal

NIKKI DEESE

Areté staff writer

Seven teams raced to find 87 unique places or things in the Bowling Green area on Saturday, March 27. Supported by the Student Government Association and the Honors Club, the scavenger hunt provided the three teams that completed the most objects on the list in two hours with a cash prize. By 8:10 p.m., everyone returned and anxiously waited as their photos were judged. Third place went to Bo Armstrong and Beth Truax with 53 items found. Two teams tied with a whopping 59 items found, but because Anna Vied, Kelsey Quiambao, Haley Mefford, and Mackenzie Horton arrived before the second team, they won the grand prize. Second place went to Alyssa Stephens, Telia Butler, Josh Amos, and Megan Dunlevy. All teams were given cookies for participating and all profits went toward the Honors Formal on April 24 at the Corvette Museum.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kelsey Quiambao, Anna Vied, and Haley Mefford came in first place in the Scavenger Hunt on March 27. The team found 59 items and tied with another team, but won the grand prize because it arrived back first.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Josh Amos, Telia Butler, Amy Poynter, Alyssa Stephens, and Megan Dunlevy also collected 59 items, coming in second place.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Beth Truax and Bo Armstrong placed third with 53 items.

On the Path to Broadway

KALI O'ROURKE

Areté staff writer

If there's one thing college students don't have enough of, it's time. For the cast of *Like You Like It*, composed of several Honors College students, and part of the WKU Department of Theatre and Dance's Before Broadway series, this was certainly true. With a performance date of March 26, they had only two weeks to perfect their production of Sammy Buck and Daniel Acquisto's Shakespeare-based musical.

Set in the 1980s, the story follows the misadventures of high school senior Rosalind (Erica Becker) and her cousin, Celia (Liz Floore), in their quest to get Rosalind the guy, Orlando Bateman (Jon Meyer). When suspended, Celia and Rosalind go to the Arden Mall, with Rosalind in disguise as a boy named Corey. While "Corey" is able to befriend Orlando, the cross-dressing has a price. Both Corey and Rosalind are invited to the big dance, but by the end, according to the show's own lyrics, "it all turns out like you like it, like an old Molly Ringwald movie."

Since this was a staged reading, the cast held their scripts as they sang their way

through the story without a set and with minimal costuming. As explained by the director, Tracey Moore, a staged reading is part of the "refinement process" of a show on its way to Broadway. As an additional component in the process, both Buck and Acquisto were present for a talk-back, in which audience members were able to tell what worked in the show and what didn't. These comments could be a major help to the writers in their revision before the musical's final publishing and Broadway debut.

One of the people to stay for the talk-back, Mark Reeves, a sophomore in the WKU Honors College, said it best when he said, "It's always fun to be a part of something... that could be big, and you saw it first at Western Kentucky."

Honors students in the cast were Stephen G. Tabor, Rob Woodall, Vicky Siegrist, Mal Ward, Holly Berger, Kaitlyn Fouts, and stage manager Magnolia Gramling.



Support Your Fellow Honors Students in An Evening of Dance

Starring Honors Students:

Natalie Peak, Jessica Williams, Erin Finn, Jordan Jones

This concert features the WKU Dance Company performing an array of dance styles and top notch artistry with choreography by WKU dance faculty and guest artists.

What:

An Evening of Dance

When:

April 29

Where:

FAC Theatre

Time:

8pm

Other:

Tickets are on sale in the Honors Center for \$2!

WKU Students Feel Good

ASHTON SKATES

Areté staff writer

Who knew a grilled cheese sandwich could change the world? For transfer sophomore Alex Kimura, it certainly can. She has started the WKU chapter of Feel Good, a nonprofit organization partnered with the Hunger Project. Feel Good members make grilled cheese sandwiches for donations which go

directly to the Hunger Project, a group which believes in the empowerment of the hungry. Those who receive aid from the Hunger Project are taught to be self-reliant through the creation of partnerships rather than charities, a point Kimura was careful to emphasize. Kimura brought the project here to WKU because she was involved with it at her previous school, Clemson University.

"I feel called to help in the fight to end

world hunger and I feel like it's something everyone can do," Kimura said.

Feel Good is outside with its grilled cheeses every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Centennial Mall. The Feel Good Facebook group posts updates about upcoming events and more ways to get involved. For those involved with Feel Good, making a difference is as easy as making a grilled cheese.

Jammin' on the Patio

Honors Students Perform at DUC's Noon Tunes



PHOTOS BY AMANDA LOVIZA

Left: Joey Coe both sings and plays guitar for his band, Joe and the Bug Men 5. Coe performed in DUC's performance series, "Noon Tunes," twice this semester.

Top Right: Band members Jacob Turner, Joey Coe, and Dave Vickery, and guests Drew Eclov and Emmy Woosley, perform the Avett Brothers' "Backwards with Time."

Bottom Right: Vickery and Coe have performed together at several Honors and WKU events, playing a mixture of covered songs and Coe's original music.

I've Got a Crush on You!

ASHTON SKATES

Areté staff writer

In light of the recent tragedy in Haiti, an organization called Hearts for Haiti challenged each residence hall on campus to collect money to help with the earthquake relief effort.

Minton Hall decided to take advantage of the season of love and sold Crush cans in the lobby for the week preceding Valentine's

Day, raising twice as much money as any of the other dorms. For one dollar, one could purchase a can of Orange Crush and send it to a friend, boyfriend/girlfriend, or— if you're really brave—a person you've secretly had your eye on. A message of the sender's choice accompanied the can: those chosen ranged from the classic "Happy Valentine's Day" to the sarcastic "You don't matter."

Once sales were completed, the cans were wrapped attractively and delivered,

along with the message. The recipient could choose to pay one dollar to find out who sent the can, unless the sender had paid \$2 to keep the gesture anonymous.

The delightfully cheesy fundraiser was a success. Minton raised \$114, more than twice the amount raised by other dorms. Everyone from roommates to RAs sent and received cans, and the activity was a great way for Honors students to bond and help out a great cause.

St. Baldrick's Day Going Bald for a Cause

MARY BOOTHE

Areté staff writer

Millions of people join together once a year on March 17 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. According to legend, it was on this day that St. Patrick expelled all the snakes from Ireland. People often celebrate by wearing green, wearing four-leaf clovers, and dying rivers green. However, to some March 17 has another name and a completely different

purpose; this year, seven WKU students participated in St. Baldrick's Day.

St. Baldrick's Day is based on a nonprofit foundation which raises money to search for a cure to cancer. This idea was invented in 1999, and it involves people individually raising money to support shaving their heads. They attend an event with hundreds of others, donate their money, and then shave their heads. Some also donate their hair to organizations such as Locks

of Love, which makes wigs for people who have lost their hair from a medical condition. The purpose of shaving their heads is to show physical support to those who have undergone chemotherapy and involuntarily lost their hair.

This year Honors students Regina Durkan and her boyfriend, Michael Simpson, along with Regina's roommate and four other WKU students, raised money for St. Baldrick's Day. They attended Fourth Street Live, an event hosted in Louisville, Ky., and proceeded to get their heads shaved.

"This was something I wanted to do, to see if I had the strength to follow through with it," Durkan said. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget."

Durkan and her roommate were the only girls from WKU who participated. She was one of many people who went on to donate her hair to Locks of Love, which she said was something she would definitely do again. Durkan is currently a senior and raised about \$1,300 for cancer research.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

From left to right: Michael Simpson, Elizabethtown; Ian Mack, Louisville; Regina Durkan, Elizabethtown; Jennifer Chapman, Louisville; Travis Beeler, Elizabethtown

The Ride of a Lifetime: Every Mile a Memory

JAKE RYLE

Areté staff writer

Every Honors student can tell you that there are 12 inches in one foot and 5,280 feet per mile. By multiplying those two numbers together, you'll realize that there are 63,360 inches in a single mile.

This summer, five WKU students—including three Honors students—are in for the ride of their lives as they will bicycle across the country to raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's research.

Justin Cave, an Honors freshman, describes the "Fiji's Across America" route as, "A 3,200 mile journey starting in Oceanside, California, and will travel through nine states ending in Yorktown, Virginia."

Using the same mathematical logic, these five riders will be traveling 202,750,000 inches to reach their final destination.

Tyler Jury, an Honors junior and the founder of "Fiji's Across America," explains his idea as life-changing.

"When my grandfather passed away after a four-year battle with Alzheimer's, I wanted to do something in memory of his life. I took my dream of cycling across the country and decided to turn it into a ride to benefit Alzheimer's research so that other families might not have to go through what I have been

through."

Fiji's Across America has a lofty, but attainable, goal of \$75,000. The riders have raised more than \$15,000 already through kick-off events, t-shirt/bracelet sales, and online donations through their website.

Alzheimer's is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States.

"I took my dream of cycling across the country and decided to turn it into a ride to benefit Alzheimer's"
-Tyler Jury

This fact alone is enough to have Honors junior Chaz Vittitow ready with a plan of action for all WKU students.

"Even though there are only five WKU riders, everyone can help the cause by voting for a \$25,000 grant for Fiji's Across America."

Voting began on April 1, and runs through the end of the month. Anyone interested in the cause can vote at www.refresheverything.com/fjisacrossamerica.

Whether it be 202,750,000 inches, 16,896,000 feet, 3,200 miles or one journey across the country, the lives of three Honors students are reaching out to those affected by the Alzheimer's disease. While those numbers seem too large to actually grasp, Andrew Gott, one of the rider's friends, summed up the entire experience perfectly.

"One pedal push doesn't seem to get us any closer from one coast to the next, but it does," Gott said. "One dollar towards a cure doesn't seem to make a difference, but it does. One life dedicated to helping doesn't seem to make a difference, but I'm hoping it does."



PHOTO BY BRYAN LEMON

FJIs and Honors students Justin Cave (far left), Tyler Jury (second from left), and Chaz Vittitow (far right), along with FJIs Mitchell White (center) and Wade Haga (second from right) train for their upcoming bike trip across the country.

The Hill House: Students Serving the Community

AMANDA LOVIZA

Areté editor

Every Sunday, college kids and neighbors gather in the home of Honors students Greg Capillo and Joey Coe to eat a good home-cooked meal and bond as a community. Capillo and Coe live in the "Hill House," a program of the WKU ALIVE Center's Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility. The four students who live in the house are each working on projects to help improve

the community, it used to be a haven of drug use and domestic violence. Bob Basham, whose mother lives across the street, bought the house several years ago in order to renovate it and see that it was used in a positive way. Basham offered the house to the ALIVE Center last year.

The goal of the Hill House students is to reach out to their neighbors and find out what they need, and help meet those needs. They are offering Sunday dinners, assessing property values in the neighborhood, forming a communication

network among the neighbors, and working to get houses properly weatherized. Capillo said he feels especially strongly about the value of bringing the

behind a legacy that changed someone's life? Changed the world, even," Coe asked a group of freshmen during their first legacy project meeting. As Capillo, Coe, Le, and Vu work to complete their individual projects by the time they leave the house in May, they are also looking toward the future of the Hill House.

"This really is a pilot program, something we can expand on in the future, in a community with more needs," Capillo said.

Dr. Paul Markham, one of the three directors of the ICSR and an assistant professor in the Honors College, would like to see Hill Houses scattered all over Bowling Green and across the country.

"[I would like] for this to be the first of many, where other property owners see this and think they'd love to do this with [their] university, community," Markham said.



PHOTO BY BETSY WILSON

Greg Capillo, the first resident of the Hill House, brought the idea of Sunday dinner to the house as a means of bringing the community together.

their neighborhood around 11th Street.

"The idea is to have people living and working in this community using their academic work to benefit the community," said Capillo, an Honors senior from Lexington, Ky. Capillo has been living in the house since last September. Two graduate students, Thang Le and Phuong Vu, also live in the house with Capillo and Coe.

While the house now exists to benefit

community together over an informal meal each week. Coe has developed the Class Legacy Project, a plan to bring together a group of freshmen each year to develop a plan that will in some way leave a positive lasting impact on the community.

"Why can't a class leave

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS!

Pay for your degree
while working in the community!

Deadline to apply is April 30th.

Visit www.wku.edu/alive/hillhouse.html for application materials and more information.

See what other students living and working in the Hill House are doing... visit cehouse.blogspot.com



This program is made possible by the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships and supporting academic departments at Western Kentucky University.

Alumni Spotlight: Meridith Bartley

LINDSEY PAXTON

Areté staff writer

Meridith Bartley is a 23-year-old Honors biology graduate from Crestwood, Ky. Since graduating last year, Bartley has been “floating about” from Oregon to Thailand on various internships. Most recently, Long Beach, Calif., has been her home while she visits a friend in graduate school there. In August she will be at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M., pursuing a master’s degree in aquatic ecology.

Now, let’s get to know a WKU Honors alumna.

What made her want to go into aquatic ecology?

Bartley said she knew she always wanted to major in biology, and when she got a job working in an ecology lab with Dr. Albert Meier at WKU, she had such a good experience that she never looked back.

What is her favorite memory from her Honors experience?

Last year she traveled to the University of North Carolina Wilmington on an Honors Development Grant. While

there, she worked with one of the professors who helped her do research for her thesis—using linear algebra and math to analyze the role of the detritus in food webs. Bartley said she would not have been able to do this without her involvement in the Honors College.

How did the Honors College affect her?

Bartley said that there were “tons” of Honors biology classes with such a small number of students—students that you would go through all of the class levels with—it made it easy to get to know people in the department as well as to find study groups. “I would definitely recommend it [Honors] to anyone, especially in the biology department,” she said.

If she were a superhero, what would she want her power to be?

The power to talk to animals—she likened it to one of the characters on Captain Planet.

If a movie were to be made about her and her life, whom would she want to play her?

She’s been told that her celebrity doppelganger is Anne Hathaway, but she



PHOTO SUBMITTED

would be okay if the role went to Natalie Portman.

If she were to win the lottery, how would she spend the money first?

She would go through graduate school without having to worry about the cost, and buy animals and build tanks for them. (She’s allergic to cats and dogs, so she has animals like turtles.) And, of course, she would travel all over the world.

What is the last book she read?

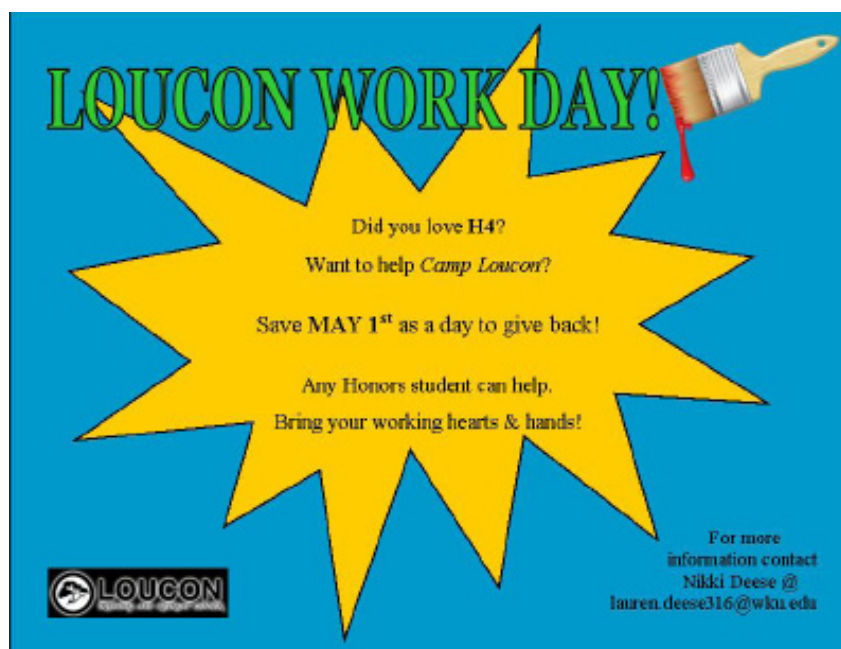
While traveling, Bartley and her friend read *The Book of Three*, the first book in the Black Cauldron Series.

The last movie she saw?

When she found out that Edward James Olmos had passed away, she decided to watch *Stand and Deliver*—a movie in which he plays the main character. She had seen it several times in school when she was younger.

If she could meet anyone—from past or present—who would it be?

Terri Irwin or Steve Irwin. Her friend met Terri once, and got an autograph for her. Bartley has already met Jeff Corwin when he came to WKU’s campus.



An Engagement Overseas

SARA KUHL

Areté staff writer

Imagine what it would be like to live at a Hogwarts-like castle for a semester while getting college credit hours and what adventures you would have... Now imagine what it would be like getting engaged while at that castle. This dream is a reality for Wesley Peden, 20, a computer science major from Glasgow, Ky., and Haley Gregory, 19, a computer science major from Somerset, Ky.

Haley and Wesley are WKU Honors students who have been together for almost seven years. They met at a church camp in their preteen years.

"I fell in love with her smile," Wesley said. "I asked for her address, we started sending letters, and the rest is history."

Currently, they are both overseas studying abroad at Harlaxton Manor for the semester. They wanted to go there



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Wesley Peden and Haley Gregory share a loving embrace after Gregory accepted Peden's proposal.

Honors Royale

Formal 2010

Saturday
April 24
8pm-12am

Tickets
\$8 Single
\$15 Couple
\$10 at Door
On Sale in the Honors Center

Formal Attire

Test Your Luck
at the
BlackJack,
Texas Hold'em
and Roulette
Tables

Where:
The National Corvette Museum

because they wanted to see all of Europe, but don't know many languages, and being in England allows for easy travel to the rest of Europe along with speaking the same language as the U.S.

One sunny Sunday afternoon, March 14 (Pi day), Wesley asked Haley to accompany him on a walk to the gardens of the manor.

"We sat on a bench overlooking the manor and he said, 'Haley, in true geeky fashion,

look at your watch--what time is it?'" Haley said. "I replied, '1:59:20,' so he said 'okay,' and waited six seconds. He then got down on one knee and pulled out the ring and asked me to marry him."

"Haley, in true geeky fashion, look at your watch--what time is it?"

Wesley had been planning this proposal for several months. Haley's mother had asked Wesley to use her engagement ring, so before they went to England, he got the ring resized and took it with him on the plane. He had decided around

New Year's Day to use Pi time on Pi day.

Both Haley and Wesley are hoping for a small wedding ceremony with just a few friends and their families. However, with their families attending, it could be quite a large gathering. The wedding will take place on July 31, and as for the honeymoon--Wesley is going to surprise Haley.

Fall 2010 Colloquia Course Offerings

Here are course descriptions of this fall's colloquia, provided by the faculty members:

Monsters, Maggots, and Morphine: Medicine and Society in Modern America -- 3 credits

Americans' relationship with disease is, and has always been, evolving, defined variously by religious leaders, physicians, scientists, philanthropists, social workers, the state, and the sick themselves. We will explore how Americans understood, experienced, and coped with disease, disability, and death and the changing role of organized medicine within that dynamic. We will pay particular attention to role of scientific innovation and federal, state, and local policy. Throughout our time together, we will seek to understand how race, class, and gender complicated cultural interpretations of disease, strained doctor-patient relationships, and raised thorny ethical questions that were answered in sometimes disturbing ways.

Global Perspectives on Leadership and the Challenges of the 21st Century -- 3 credits

This course will emphasize a global perspective on significant environmental, demographic, political, technological, and economic trends shaping the world over the next thirty years. We will focus particular attention on the implications of these global trends for decision-makers in the present. Throughout the course, we will consider both probable and preferable futures and identify some of the best strategies and tactics available to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Sports, Society, and Media -- 3 credits

We will analyze and discuss the media's role in shaping current issues related to sports and society, such as gender in sports/media, race in sports/media, celebrity coverage of athletes, drug testing, and opinion media (talk

radio, TV, etc.) and sports.

Sustainability and Responsibility -- 3 credits

Sustainability offers a framework for understanding and addressing urgent environmental and economic problems. Sustainability recognizes the complex and interdependent nature of these challenges, and the need for interdisciplinary solutions that incorporate economic, social, environmental, political, and moral aspects. This colloquium will examine global sustainability issues through an ethical lens, looking at questions of social and personal responsibility and focusing on emerging possibilities for the future.

Human Rights -- 1.5 credits

In Understanding Human Rights, we explore the history of human rights, human rights law, and a number of important human rights issues. The first half of the course is devoted to discussions of assigned readings, including James Nickel's short textbook, *Making Sense of Human Rights*. For the second half of the course, students present their research and lead class discussions on specific human rights issues. It is a full semester, but you will find it educational and rewarding.

Controversial Issues in Human Behavior -- 1.5 credits

Because of the complexities of human interaction, many aspects of human behavior do not have one "correct" answer, leading to endless debate and discussion for centuries among experts in many disciplines. However these discussions and debates extend far beyond the world of the "experts" and into people's everyday lives. Does divorce harm children? Are humans naturally violent? Does ADHD exist? Do video games lead to violence? Do men and women communicate differently? This course will explore a variety of issues in human behavior from the perspectives of experts in the fields of psychology, medicine, philosophy, ethics,

anthropology, biology, communications, social work, pediatrics, psychiatry, and neuroscience.

Only a Theory: God and Darwin -- 1.5 credits

The 2005 court case *Kitzmiller v. Dover* renewed an often rowdy cultural debate about the nature of scientific knowledge and its relationship to religious beliefs. Ever since the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species* in 1859, Americans have been divided on how to respond to the challenges of evolutionary theory to traditional beliefs about the divine origin of the world and life in it. This colloquium will explore those issues by looking at the current state of that conversation and the possibilities for reconciliation between science and faith.

Chess Lessons and Lessons from Chess -- 1.5 credits

Students learn to play chess in an active and hands-on manner, and obtain insight how the skills acquired in studying the game can be transferred to other fields. Chess is more than a game. It is also an art and a science. The question "what is the best move?" is applicable to a wide variety of situations, not only at the chessboard, but also when important decisions must be made in any other setting. This colloquium will activate the students to think strategically and creatively when playing chess but also in other situations. The rules of the game will be reviewed. Elements of tactics will be acquired in a hands-on manner. Puzzles will be solved and discussed. Students will learn how to make a record of a game, using algebraic notation, and how to annotate a game. Using group-versus-group games the idea of an internal dialogue will be illustrated in which the situation is evaluated, plans are formulated, and decisions are made.

Check out TopNet for more upcoming Honors courses—especially the brand new Honors University Physics I and Honors Civilization and Architecture!

Honors Study Abroad Contests

AMANDA LOVIZA

1st place essay

It was a cold night in early October. I had been studying abroad in Ecuador for just over a month, and I was on a field trip with my hiking class. Our group was Ecuadorian, American, Dutch, German, Norwegian, and French. We ranged in ages from 18 to mid-30s. Some could only speak a few words of Spanish; others, it was their native tongue. The only thing that had brought us together was a love for the great outdoors. We'd spent the day hiking and rock climbing, and now we had finally pitched our tents in a field and started a campfire. As we all sat around the fire, one person asked another to sing. From that moment, the evening became one that I will never forget.

It began with the Avett Brothers, then turned to the Beatles. Anyone who knew the song joined in. The Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, and then a Dutch folk group. The Americans sang Disney songs in English, and the Ecuadorians followed with the Spanish translations. We learned a traditional French song, and listened to the two German boys shyly sing their favorite song. Then, each nationality sang their national anthem. So many languages echoed across that small field. It was

beautiful, each person's pride in their country evident in every word. Solos were applauded, and translations were pieced together as a group.

That simple night, gathered around a campfire with people from all over the world, is the epitome of why I chose to study abroad. Most of us had only known each other one day, but that didn't matter. The conversation flowed from Spanish to English to German, and when one person couldn't translate, another would chime in. It was a beautiful experience of sharing cultures. We wholeheartedly embraced each other's backgrounds and ignored our differences. We were one people, one small piece of humanity, and we were not separated by race or religion or economic status.

A friend once told me that studying abroad gave her "a better sense of the world-



LINDSEY FILIATREAU, 2ND PLACE PHOTO. KASIGAU, KENYA



MAI TRAN, 3RD PLACE PHOTO. PARIS, FRANCE



RACHEL KELLEY, 1ST PLACE PHOTO. BUGUTA, KENYA

how big it is and how small it is." There are no better words to describe how studying abroad alters the way you think. Yes, it was awe-inspiring to be surrounded by people speaking a language other than

my own native tongue, and sometimes I felt like I would never be able to fathom the cultural differences between South America and North America. But then one day I met a retired Lieutenant General of the Marine Corps whose grandson goes to Western, and we chatted as if he were my own grandfather.

So, yes, the world is a stunningly large place and I have so much more to learn about it and all its diverse cultures. But no matter where you are in the world, you will learn that in the end, you're all human, and everyone's heart looks the same.

2nd Place Essay - Andrea Wellkamp

3rd Place Essay - Holly Mitchell

Calendar of Events

APRIL 23

* 4:00 PM: HILL HOUSE OPEN HOUSE EVENT

APRIL 24

* 8:00 PM: HONORS FORMAL

APRIL 26

* 7:00 PM: HONORS FORUM

* 8:30 PM: HONORS CLUB MEETING

APRIL 29

* 8:00 PM: AN EVENING OF DANCE

MAY 3

* 2:00 PM: LDV BRAINSTORMING GROUP AT ICSR

MAY 2

* 3:00 PM: HONORS END OF THE YEAR BASH

MAY 13

* 11:00 AM: HONORS GRADUATE LUNCHEON

MY WORK: novelist

MY THEMES: murder, espionage
and government cover-ups

MY PHILANTHROPY: family and
adult literacy

MY HONOR SOCIETY: Phi Kappa Phi

GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE.

DAVID BALDACCIO is the internationally acclaimed author of numerous best-selling novels and founder of the Wish You Well Foundation* that works to eliminate illiteracy. Baldaccio was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1983. For more on the foundation, visit WishYouWellFoundation.org.

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Photo by Thomas Eggle



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